AMSER Case of the Month:

92 year old female with difficulty swallowing

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Patient Presentation

• CC/HPI: 92 year old female presents with increasing trouble swallowing and a feeling of a lump in the throat

• Past medical history: hiatal hernia, upper respiratory tract fungal infection

• Past Surgical hx: noncontributory
Differential

- Peptic stricture
- Scleroderma
- Achalasia
- Diffuse esophageal spasm
- Diverticulum
What Imaging Should We Order?
Select the applicable ACR Appropriateness Criteria

**Variant 1:**
Oropharyngeal dysphagia with an attributable cause.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiologic Procedure</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>RRL*</th>
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*Rating Scale: 1,2,3 Usually not appropriate; 4,5,6 May be appropriate; 7,8,9 Usually appropriate

**Variant 2:**
Unexplained oropharyngeal dysphagia.

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This imaging modality was ordered by the physician.
Findings: (labeled)

Esophageal Diverticulum
Findings

Outpouching/diverticulum (*) off of the tracheal esophagus (E) related to fibrotic changes in the upper lobes (arrows), presumably from old granulomatous disease. Note the midline trachea (T)
Final Dx:

Traction Diverticulum
Case Discussion

- Diverticulum formed by pulling force of contracting bands of adhesion
- Often a result from tuberculosis or mediastinal lymphadenitis
- Patients often present with dysphagia or recurrent aspiration
- Increased risk of ulceration and fistulation
- Depending on severity of symptoms, main treatment would be surgical with a potential follow up esophageal myotomy
References:


ACR Appropriateness Criteria: https://acsearch.acr.org/docs/69495/Narrative/